

U.S. Army Institute for Religious Leadership



USA-IRL Commandant Chaplain (COL) James Palmer, Jr.

Chaplain James Palmer, Jr. assumes the responsibility as the 44th Commandant of the US Army Institute for Religious Leadership. Chaplain Palmer is a native of Petersburg, Virginia. He is an ordained Baptist minister and endorsed by the Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc. Chaplain Palmer entered the United States Army in November 1992.

Chaplain Palmer received the Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Virginia Union University, Richmond, Virginia; Master of Divinity degree from Samuel Dewitt Proctor School of Theology, Virginia Union University, Richmond, Virginia; Master of Arts in American Studies from The College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia; and Doctorate of Ministry degree from Regent University, Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Chaplain Palmer's previous assignments include: Chaplain for the 304th Signal Battalion, Seoul, Korea; 11th Transportation Battalion and Post Chaplain Fort Story, Virginia; Division Support Command (DISCOM), and 1st Brigade Chaplain, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, Georgia; Deputy Task Force Chaplain for rotation KFOR 3A Joint Guardian, Kosovo; Ethics Instructor for the Army Logistics University (ALU), Fort Lee, Virginia; Small Group Instructor for the Chaplain Officer Basic Leaders Course at the U.S. Army Institute for Religious Leadership, Fort Jackson, South Carolina; Training and Doctrine Command Chaplain's Office, Fort Monroe, Virginia; Deputy Command Chaplain (Forward), Third Army/US Army Central Command, Camp Arifjan, Kuwait; Garrison Chaplain, United States Army Training Center, Fort Jackson, South Carolina; U.S. Army Cyber Command Chaplain, Fort Meade, Maryland; Command Chaplain, United States Army Training and Doctrine Command, Fort Eustis, Virginia; and Director of Strategy, Plans, Policy & Resources for Office of the Chief of Chaplains.

Chaplain Palmer's military education includes: Chaplain Officer Basic Course; Chaplain Officer Advanced Course; Force Management Course; Combined Arms and Services Staff School and Command General Staff College; War College Fellow at George Mason University's Institute of Conflict Analysis and Resolution.

Chaplain Palmer's awards include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (9 awards), Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal (2 awards), and numerous awards, campaign and service medals.

Chaplain Palmer is married to the former Faith Aileen Turner. They have two sons and a daughter.

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